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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

Applicant: T.W. Bish et al. Examiner: Mohammad Ali
Serial No.: 09/436,506 Group Art Unit: 2177
Filed: November 9, 1999 Docket No.: TU999036
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING DATA FROM
STORAGE SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-746-7238 on November 5, 2003.

David W. Victor

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated August 5, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of cited prior art. Applicants had requested a phone interview to discuss the Final Office Action. Applicants traverse the prior art rejections and submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

In response to a request for a phone interview by Applicants, the Examiner said he was amenable to a phone interview, but could not locate the file at the time. The Examiner and the attorney for Applicants discussed that Applicants would submit a response and the Examiner would contact the attorney to schedule a phone interview if the Examiner still had doubts as to the allowability of the claims.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2.